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December 6, 1901

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[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

*Smallpox in Gilmer County, Ga.*

MOBILE, ALA., November 26, 1901.

SIR: In conformity to telegraphic orders to "proceed to Ellijay, Ga., and consult with the authorities there regarding smallpox cases," I have the honor to state that I left Mobile on the night of the 21st, but owing to there being only one train a day from Atlanta to Ellijay I did not reach that place until the 23d. I was met at the depot by Dr. Tankersley, the physician in charge of the cases; we proceeded at once to the office of the Mayor where we discussed the situation.

The smallpox in Ellijay was probably brought from Jasper by a negro who went from one place to the other while suffering from an eruptive disease. I saw on the main street of the town a case of confluent smallpox in a white man. He was extremely ill and his chances of recovery are not good. The case is in the pustular stage, and, to express his exact condition, he is one sore from poll to sole, eyes, mouth, nose, and skin.

There was only 1 other case in the town proper; this is in a child, and in the papular stage, and is very mild. On the outskirts of the town I saw a family of 8 persons, all of whom had had the disease and were convalescing. In another family we visited, the mother had rather a severe case of discrete smallpox. All the severe cases seen were in adults, the children as usual escaping with mild attacks.

Ellijay is the county seat of Gilmer County, Ga. It is divided into east and west Ellijay by the river of same name. There are about 900 inhabitants. The schools had suspended owing to the presence of smallpox.

I was requested by the mayor and health authorities to lecture on smallpox at the Academy on Saturday evening. This I did, laying especial stress on the diagnosis of the disease and its prevention by vaccination. That the talk did good was evidenced by the fact that many of the people who had been bitterly opposed to vaccination were among the first to appear at the office of Dr. Tankersley on Sunday morning for vaccination and the stream continued to pour in until all the vaccine (which had been telegraphed for after my arrival) was used up and a new supply ordered. I particularly pointed out the necessity for placing guards around the infected premises and the establishment of a smallpox hospital, the observation and detention of all persons who had been exposed.

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Everyone was much pleased at the prompt action of the Service.

Respectfully,

W. P. MCINTOSH,  
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

*Smallpox in Buffalo, N. Y.*

BUFFALO, N. Y., November 28, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to report that during the past two weeks, ended to-day, there have occurred in this city about 25 cases of variola, with 2 deaths. The commencement of the disease can be traced to a case reported as chicken pox, which resulted in death. Four cases occurred at once among those immediately in contact with this case, and from these the disease has spread rapidly among children exposed at the public schools. The second fatal case was also in a child, and was not correctly diagnosed until the disease was far advanced and

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many had been exposed. While the health authorities are impressed with the possibilities for a large number of cases, their energetic and radical measures will no doubt prevent anything approaching an epidemic. Thus far the disease is located solely on the east side of the city, which is populated largely by a foreign element. The authorities are hampered by the lack of isolation facilities, the city isolation hospital being already taxed to its utmost.

Respectfully,

EUGENE WASDIN,  
*Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

BUFFALO, N. Y., November 26, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to state that there applied at this dispensary on yesterday for treatment Seaman J. J. Corcoran, suffering from variola. The disease evidently had been contracted from exposure in Duluth, the man reaching this point by rail. In this connection I submit for your information the latest report from the office of the health commissioner of Buffalo in regard to the smallpox status in the city. Since the 23d there have probably occurred 10 cases more, with an additional death.

Respectfully,

EUGENE WASDIN,  
*Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

*Arrival at Reedy Island Quarantine of vessels from West Indian ports.*

REEDY ISLAND QUARANTINE,  
*via Port Penn, Del., November 24, 1901.*

SIR: Through the medical officer in command of national quarantine service on Delaware Bay and River, I have the honor to report the arrival at this station of the following vessels: November 20, 1901, American tug *Cuba*, with barges *Sagua* and *Havana*, from Havana; no passengers; bill of health signed by Surgeon Glennan; American schooner *Catawanteak*, from Baracoa, with cocoanuts; no passengers; bill of health signed by Acting Asst. Surg. Lores Llorens.

Respectfully,

T. F. RICHARDSON,  
*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., In Command.*

*Arrival at Baltimore of vessels from South American and West Indian ports.*

BALTIMORE, MD., November 30, 1901.

SIR: I have to report the arrival at this port of the following vessels from the ports named for the week ended this day: November 25, American barkentine *Josephine*, from Rio de Janeiro, with coffee; British steamship *Drumelzier*, from Daiquiri, with ore; British steamship *Straits of Dover*, from Santiago de Cuba, with ore. November 29, British steamship *Grayfield*, from Santiago de Cuba, with ore.

Respectfully,

W.M. F. STONE,  
*Collector.*

**REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER.**

*Eagle Pass, Tex., November 24, 1901—Inspection service.*—I have the honor to report the following summary of transactions at this port for the week ended November 23, 1901: Number of regular passenger trains from Mexico inspected, 7; number of passengers on trains inspected and passed, 140; number of excursion trains returning from C. P. Diaz,